

Ben Taylor

From: Ben Taylor
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 10:32 AM
To: Matt Hirsch
Subject: RE: AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN: State Investigators Enter San Antonio Abortion Clinic

This is probably what Carol Everett was talking about in that interview.

"Planned Parenthood's Texas affiliates received \$3.1 million from Medicaid in the fiscal year that ended Aug. 31, state numbers showed. Because 90 percent of the money came from the federal government, Texas accounted for almost \$310,000 of that total."

From: Sam Taylor
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 10:20 AM
Subject: AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN: State Investigators Enter San Antonio Abortion Clinic

http://www.statesman.com/news/news/state-investigators-enter-san-antonio-abortion-clinic/nn7jq/?ecmp=statesman_social_twitter_2014_sfp

State Investigators Enter San Antonio Abortion Clinic

By Tim Eaton and Chuck Lindell

Austin American-Statesman

SAN ANTONIO — State health investigators entered Planned Parenthood's abortion clinic in San Antonio on Thursday morning but declined to answer questions, referring inquiries to officials in Austin.

A spokesman for the Health and Human Services Commission also said that he could not comment on "any oversight activities" by the Office of Inspector General, the agency's investigative arm.

The action appears related to state efforts, begun four days ago, to drop Planned Parenthood as a Medicaid health care provider over undercover videos depicting the organization's fetal tissue practices.

It was unclear what information or documents agency investigators were seeking at the San Antonio abortion clinic. Medicaid does not cover abortions, and reimbursements under the federal program go toward cancer screenings, HIV tests and other services provided by Planned Parenthood's health centers.

Republicans and abortion opponents have said the videos show Planned Parenthood officials condoning practices that violate two laws — one against the sale of fetal tissue to researchers, the other barring changes to abortion methods so the tissue could be procured.

Planned Parenthood and Democratic supporters have said the videos, surreptitiously shot by abortion opponents, were heavily edited to give the false impression of misconduct. The law allows clinics to be reimbursed for the cost of procuring tissue for researchers, and no abortion practices were changed to collect intact body parts, the organization has said.

On Monday, the lead investigator at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission sent letters informing all of the state's Planned Parenthood affiliates that they were being dropped as a Medicaid health care provider.

“Earlier this year, you committed and condoned numerous acts of misconduct captured on video that reveal repeated program violations and breach the minimum standards of care required of a Medicaid enrollee,” Inspector General Stuart Bowen Jr. said in the letters.

Planned Parenthood’s Texas affiliates received \$3.1 million from Medicaid in the fiscal year that ended Aug. 31, state numbers showed. Because 90 percent of the money came from the federal government, Texas accounted for almost \$310,000 of that total.

Supporters of Planned Parenthood have said the state does not have the authority to exclude the organization from a federal program.

In his letters, Bowen said the videos indicated that the organization’s doctors have altered abortion procedures to procure intact fetal tissue for researchers. Such changes in procedure would violate federal law and Medicaid rules, he said.

Bowen also said his office “has information suggesting that fraud,” including illegal billing practices, has been committed by a number of Planned Parenthood affiliates enrolled in the Medicaid program in Texas. The letters provided no specifics but referred to Planned Parenthood’s \$4.3 million payment in 2013 to settle a lawsuit that alleged improper billing.

Planned Parenthood has 30 days to respond or be automatically severed from the program, Bowen’s letters said.

Ben Taylor

From: Ben Taylor
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 2:21 PM
To: Robert Allen; Matt Hirsch; Julia Rathgeber; Jimmy Blacklock; Arthur D'Andrea; Kara Crawford; Drew DeBerry; Reed Clay
Subject: Reax to PP announcement

As you probably know, Governor Abbott is receiving a very positive reaction from pro-life and other social conservative groups to his announcement about the termination of Planned Parenthood from the Medicaid program.

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Below are the news releases I know of, as well as the email responses I received. Not included are the many tweets, retweets, FB posts and other communications that also went out in support of Governor Abbott's actions.

Great work, everyone!

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"Thanks!! And Thank Governor Abbott!!"

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"So proud of our Governor and his people!"

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From: Julia Rathgeber
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 2:22 PM
To: Ben Taylor
Subject: RE: Reax to PP announcement

Congrats, Ben!

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To: Robert Allen <rea@gov.texas.gov>; Matt Hirsch <Matt.Hirsch@gov.texas.gov>; Julia Rathgeber <Julia.Rathgeber@gov.texas.gov>; Jimmy Blacklock <Jimmy.Blacklock@gov.texas.gov>; Arthur D'Andrea <Arthur.D'Andrea@gov.texas.gov>; Kara Crawford <Kara.Crawford@gov.texas.gov>; Drew DeBerry <Drew.DeBerry@gov.texas.gov>; Reed Clay <Reed.Clay@gov.texas.gov>
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From: Kara Crawford
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 3:25 PM
To: Ben Taylor
Subject: Re: Reax to PP announcement

This is great, thanks for sharing!

Kara Crawford
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of Governor Greg Abbott
(512) 463-9036

On Oct 21, 2015, at 2:21 PM, "Ben Taylor" <Ben.Taylor@gov.texas.gov> wrote:

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Ben Taylor

From: Carol Everett [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 9:57 AM
To: Ben Taylor
Subject: RE: Texas Eliminates Taxpayer Funding To Planned Parenthood Providers

Thanks Ben –

So proud of our Governor and his people!

Thanks for all you do!

Blessings,

Carol

From: Ben Taylor [mailto:Ben.Taylor@gov.texas.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 10:46 AM
To: Ben Taylor
Subject: FW: Texas Eliminates Taxpayer Funding To Planned Parenthood Providers

Greetings!

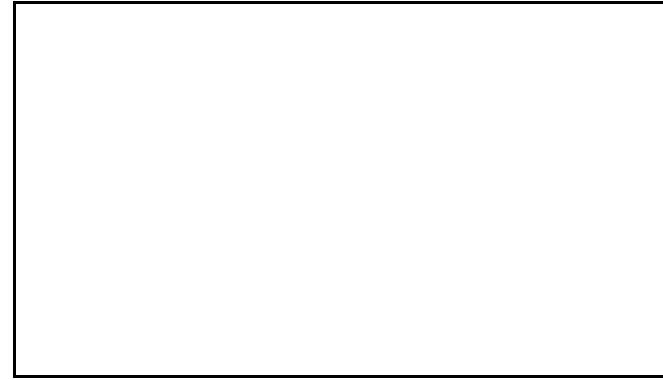
I want to make sure you see this important announcement from Governor Abbott about Texas ending Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood.

Thank you for everything you are doing to support the sanctity of life!

Ben

Ben Taylor
Deputy Outreach Director
Office of Governor Greg Abbott
Office: (512) 463-1774
Mobile: (512) 914-0333

From: Governor Greg Abbott Press Office [mailto:GovernorAbbottPress@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 10:13 AM
To: All Governor's Office Staff <AllGovernorsOfficeStaff@gov.texas.gov>
Subject: Texas Eliminates Taxpayer Funding To Planned Parenthood Providers



For Immediate Distribution | October 19, 2015 | (512) 463-1826

Texas Eliminates Taxpayer Funding To Planned Parenthood Providers

AUSTIN – Following the release of gruesome videos filmed at Planned Parenthood facilities, including Gulf Coast in Texas, Governor Greg Abbott announced his [LIFE Initiative](#) to provide greater protections for children in the womb and prevent the sale of baby body parts. Today, the Office of Inspector General at Texas Health and Human Services Commission issued a letter ending Medicaid participation for Planned Parenthood affiliates in the State of Texas based on evidence of Medicaid program violations. The cancellation, consistent with Governor Abbott's LIFE initiative, calls for funding to Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers out of taxpayer money to be eliminated completely, both at the State and local levels.

"Texas has stepped forward and shown its unyielding commitment to both protecting life and providing women's health services," said Governor Abbott. "The gruesome harvesting of baby body parts by Planned Parenthood will not be allowed in Texas and the barbaric practice must be brought to an end. As such, ending the Medicaid participation of Planned Parenthood affiliates in the State of Texas is another step in providing greater access to safe healthcare for women while protecting our most vulnerable – the unborn."

In the letter issued, the Office of Inspector General made the following points for ending enrollment in the Texas Medicaid program:

- That Planned Parenthood and its affiliates are no longer capable of performing medical services in a professionally competent, safe, legal and ethical manner.
- The termination of all Planned Parenthood affiliates will not affect access to care because there are thousands of alternate providers in Texas including federally qualified health centers, Medicaid-certified rural health clinics, and other health care providers across the state that participate in the Texas Women's Health Program and Medicaid.
- The State of Texas requests cooperation in informing all clients and potential clients of alternatives where they can obtain Medicaid services from providers in good standing with the State.

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Please DO NOT REPLY to this message. It comes from an un-monitored mailbox. If you have any questions regarding this announcement, please contact the Governor's Press Office at (512) 463-1826.

[GovDelivery](#), Inc. sending on behalf of the Office of the Governor · P.O. Box 12428 · Austin TX 78711-2428 · 800-843-5789

Ben Taylor

From: Ben Taylor
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 10:09 AM
To: Carol Everett
Subject: Re: Texas Eliminates Taxpayer Funding To Planned Parenthood Providers

Thanks, Carol. Appreciate you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 20, 2015, at 9:56 AM, Carol Everett [REDACTED] > wrote:

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